



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Blue & Gold Student Ambassador Regan Oey: Student awards changed my life



Photo by Martin Dee

Regan Oey grew up in Vancouver with his mother and two siblings. He went to Vancouver College and excelled in his studies, becoming class valedictorian and participating in both athletics—he was on the football and basketball team—and in community service, volunteering in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. That volunteer service, undertaken to fulfill a religion requirement, turned into something much more meaningful for Regan. “I learned a lot from that experience, making connections with the residents,” he explains. “It was an incredible experience.”

It was going to have more of an impact on his life than he knew: Regan’s academic and athletic achievements, combined with his leadership, made him an excellent candidate for a UBC Centennial Leaders Award.

“I watched my mom work three jobs as a single parent. I didn’t really see her. I felt I owed a lot to her, and maybe I should work after high school and help her—why would I make this choice to go to university, when the need was not as immediate as other things we were dealing with?” he says. He started thinking about jobs he could pursue after high school—but submitted his application to UBC anyway. And when he submitted it, he also included a general application for an award, in the hopes of some financial help to support his education.

He was accepted to UBC, but didn’t immediately accept the offer—not until he got the call he had received the Centennial Leaders award. “It was a shock and a

surprise. You never expect it, especially an award of this magnitude.” He says. He admits it was overwhelming, and he immediately called his mother, overcome with emotion. “And when enrollment services called, I then accepted the offer within five seconds!”

“You have no idea what this has done for me, how many doors it has opened for me and my family.”

He’s currently in his second year at UBC, studying cognitive systems. “I’ve always been interested in why people are the way they are,” he says. “I would see people in the Downtown Eastside and ask how they ended up there. I would hear hundreds of stories.” The potential to make new discoveries in psychology to help people is what’s now driving him. “Hopefully I’ll answer them one day but I have a long way to go!”

There aren’t many days that go by when he doesn’t realize how lucky he is to have his award. “I know students in financial need and I know how that feels. All of my friends work. It’s not uncommon to go to a lecture, then go straight to work, and then try and get a jump on their homework. I hear so often ‘I wasn’t able to do this because I was working’ or ‘I was too tired.’”

“I’m going to make the world a better place. And if more donors are able to do that for other students, the impact they will have is immeasurable.”

He wants everyone to know what a difference the award has made in his life. Instead of spending time at a part-time job, he is volunteering on a project to broaden the knowledge of Indigenous history and culture in high schools in Vancouver—one of several causes that he’s passionate about, trying to contribute to his community. “I’d like to combat the homeless problem in Vancouver,” he says. And to do that, he’s trying to tap into all that UBC has to offer—all the people and resources and connections he can make that will ultimately help him help others.

“It’s a big step to look at youth or students in high school and say ‘you’re going to do great things,’” he says. “It’s a little bit of a risk investing in people.” But he also says it’s not just him who benefits: “You have no idea what this has done for me, how many doors it has opened for me and my family. And in turn, it makes me want to give back.” He wants UBC donors to know just one thing, “For someone to take a chance on me, I hope they know that I’m going to make the world a better place. And if more donors are able to do that for other students, the impact they will have is immeasurable.”

2017

6,657
donors contributed
\$33 M

+

5,318
students received support
from donor-funded awards

*Many of whom will
go on to
**change
the world!***

Retired Alumnus Engineers Path to Higher Education



Photo by
Martin Dee

“The idea is to help create conditions that are helpful, not just to people but society.”

An avid reader at the age of 97, alumnus A.J. “John” Shaw (BASc Eng. 1944) has continued the pursuit of knowledge throughout his life. Although John always hoped to further his formal education, when life and time didn’t permit, he did the next best thing. Already a regular UBC donor, John decided to establish an award that would help someone else advance their studies. He also included a component to support the innovation and development of clean and renewable energy technologies, one of his long-time interests.

“I was always intrigued by how things worked,” explains John. “I grew up on West 11th in West Point Grey and in my basement I had my own workshop and my own chemistry lab. That’s just the way my genes were. I liked making things.”

With UBC so close to the family home, John says the university was a natural choice for his education. He studied chemical engineering, which, he explains, broadly looks at how to transform chemicals into the forms and products necessary to everyday life. After graduating in 1944, John married and entered the workforce. Since then, both his sons and his granddaughter have also become alumni.

John fondly recalls his own time as a student doing “the things young engineers do.” However, he notes that while education was once important for vocational training, today it is vital to understanding and harnessing the vast

amounts of information available in virtually every field of study. It was this passion that inspired family members to come together and establish an endowment that would support the *A.J. Shaw Graduate Scholarship in Engineering*.

“Education is what allows us to take the knowledge that is out there, understand it, interpret it, and get it applied.”

“The whole family thought about this a couple of years ago,” explains his son. “Setting up a legacy scholarship in my father’s name seemed like a good way to honour his love of knowledge—and his love for UBC.”

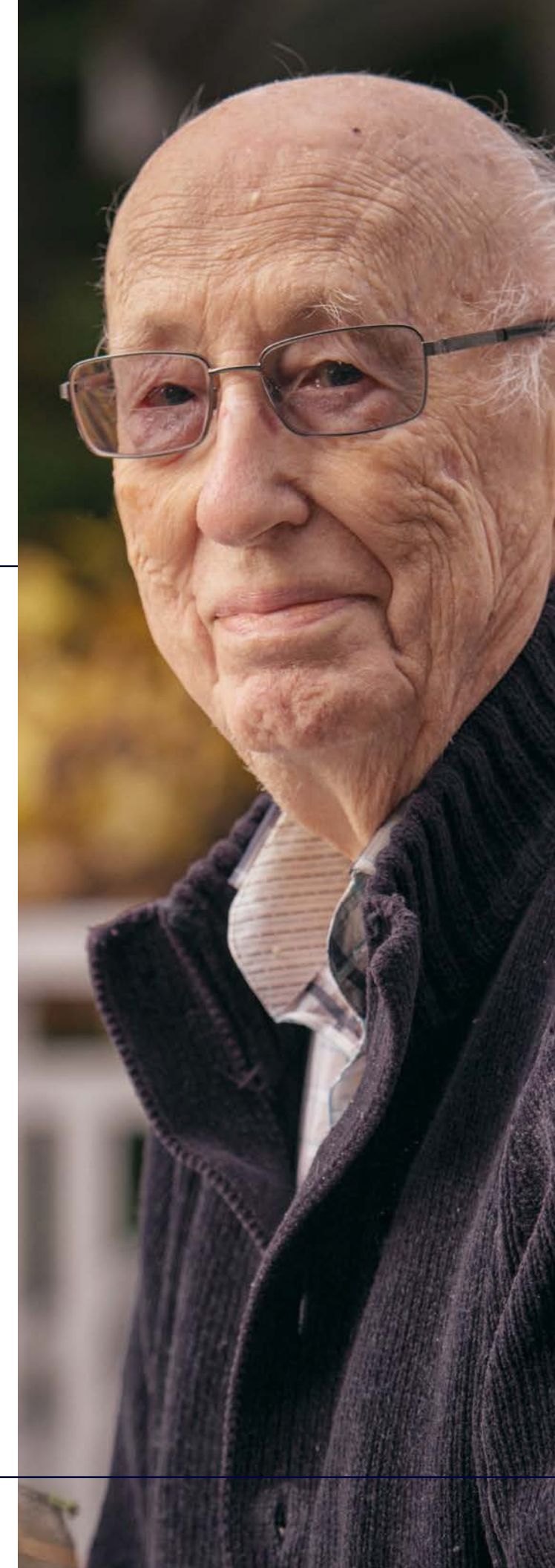
Today, the *A.J. Shaw Graduate Scholarship in Engineering* is available to graduate students undertaking research related to the advancement of clean or renewable energy technologies. The scholarship is open to all MASc, MSc, and PhD students within the Faculty of Applied Science, with preference given to those in Chemical and Biological Engineering.

“It’s a broad category,” acknowledges John. “After all, what is clean energy? Fuel cells are one form, but there are other sources of energy aside from the sun, wind, and water. For instance, biological energy. There’s a whole

host of different sources of electrical energy, which means you can reduce the need for burning coal and things like that.”

“From a natural resource economics perspective, every time you make an energy choice, you are making an environmental choice,” summarizes his son, himself a UBC alumnus.

“Education is what allows us to take the knowledge that is out there, understand it, interpret it, and get it applied,” says John. “The idea is to help create conditions that are helpful, not just to people but society. That’s really the point to all this.”





Creating future leadership through philanthropy: Patrick and Beryl Campbell

Patrick Campbell always had an adventurous spirit. During his time at UBC, he played football, soccer, lacrosse and basketball, and earned three *Big Block Awards* for his athletic achievements. With his 1947 BASc in mechanical engineering, he took that same spirit with him on a career that spanned more than three decades and took him around the world. He worked as a pipeline engineer for Williams Brothers, and his work took him from Canada to the US, South America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, working his way up to president of the company.

He and his wife Beryl never forgot that education was the starting point for their rich and adventurous lives. They established the *Patrick and Beryl Campbell Charitable Trust* to support children, education and health in Canada and Bermuda, feeling that “if we support students today, they will become future leaders.”

Their first gift to UBC was made together with Patrick’s brother Alastair and was to establish the *Mairi Grant Campbell Fellowship in English Literature* to honour their

mother. Mairi Grant graduated from the University of Glasgow around 1917 with an honours degree in English Literature, a notable achievement for a woman of her time. Although she was unable to use her education to become a lawyer—which was her initial goal—she instead became a well-respected educator, with her passion for education making a deep impression on her sons.

“If we support students today, they will become future leaders.”

Since its establishment in 1995, the Fellowship has helped more than 20 students pursue graduate studies in the Department of English, providing more than \$295,000 in financial support. Tamas Dobozy PhD’00 was the second (and third) recipient of the fellowship. He is now a Professor in the Department of English and Film

Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, and he notes the award changed his life:

“The award was especially important to me, because I had been taken on by the English PhD program on a conditional basis ... the following year, I was given full admittance to the program as well as the *Mairi Grant Campbell Fellowship*. It was such a huge, huge thing. I went from being demoralized and second-guessing the decision to being elated and more driven than ever. The following year I won a SSHRC PhD fellowship, as well as being named a Killam Fellow, so the Mairi Grant Fellowship was the start of very big things for me.”

Before he passed away in 1996, Patrick Campbell made two further gifts to UBC. The *Patrick David Campbell Graduate Fellowship* has supported over 68 students for more than two decades and provided over \$756,000 in financial support. The endowment that supports the *Patrick David Campbell Chair* has generated over \$1.7 million to support the activities of the Chair, which include teaching design and coordinating project activities, stimulating advanced-technology design activities in local industry, and providing realistic creative design exercises for undergraduate and graduate students. These activities have contributed to an increased focus and proliferation of engineering design curriculum at UBC, and to increased engagement with alumni and industry leaders relating to advanced technology design education and innovation.

The impact that Patrick and Beryl have had on UBC education is tremendous—and their legacy lives on through their Charitable Trust, now run by their family. In late 2017, the Trust made a gift of \$250,000 to establish the *Patrick and Beryl Campbell Centennial Leaders Award* as part of UBC’s new *Blue & Gold Campaign for Students*. They also made a further \$150,000 gift to the Chair and a \$50,000 gift to the *Mairi Grant Campbell Fellowship in English Literature*, boosting those two funds and ensuring they can continue to help teaching and learning at UBC.

Centennial Leaders Awards are “full-ride” entrance scholarships that are given to students who show academic merit, community leadership—and who also demonstrate financial need. The awards are renewable over the course of their four-year undergraduate studies at UBC. With this approach, UBC can recruit bright students with leadership potential who might not otherwise have the opportunity to pursue higher education and realize their dreams—which is why these awards are a priority

Regan Oey is one of the campaign’s student ambassadors, and he received a Centennial Leader award when he entered UBC. You can read more about his story on page two, where he shares that he would not have been able to attend UBC without his award. In the future, Regan is hoping to use his time and education gained at UBC to help others—whether that’s people from Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, or other students like him who wouldn’t have come to university without support.

The *Patrick and Beryl Campbell Centennial Leaders Award* will be able to disburse its first award in 2018, helping students like Regan—and will be an instrumental part of the Campbells’ legacy of supporting future leaders. for the new *Blue & Gold Campaign for Students*.

“The Mairi Grant Fellowship was the start of very big things for me.”



Photo by
Martin Dee

A Legacy to Live By

UBC alumnus Ralph Zbarsky (BASc 1971) still remembers the day in 1967 when the postman began arriving at his home with bags and bags of lab samples for analysis.

Ralph's father was Dr. Sidney H. Zbarsky, co-founder of Metro Labs (today known as LifeLabs), and one of the original two faculty members when the UBC Faculty of Medicine was established in 1950.

"He had an intellectual bent," says Ralph. "But he was also entrepreneurial. He used to encourage anybody and everybody to do something practical. Metro Labs began in our basement. It was started to fill a gap—to do all the tests that weren't being done at the hospitals, or anywhere else."

Unlike his father, who was an award-winning scientist and researcher who shared his laboratories with three Nobel laureates, Ralph had little interest in medicine. Rather, a boyish compulsion for dismantling and reassembling mechanical and electrical devices eventually gave way to a fruitful career in the field of electrical engineering. Ralph

and his siblings, Jonathan and Deborah, all attended UBC. Jonathan (BASc 1973) and Deborah (BA 1976) continue contributing to the university, and all choose to give to the fund that supports the S.H. Zbarsky Scholarship, an award that honours their father's outstanding contributions and lifelong achievements.

As an award-winning scientist and researcher in the field of nucleic acids, Dr. Zbarsky was recognized as a prolific author and a dedicated teacher. Upon his retirement in

"We all hope that one of these students will find a cure for some form of cancer or Parkinson's, but it's also important for them to enjoy their time at UBC."

1985, he was honoured at a symposium where friends, family, and colleagues came together and created a fund that led to the establishment of the perpetual endowment to support the S.H. Zbarsky scholarship.

Ralph and Deborah also had the pleasure of meeting the 2016 recipient—Chloe Gerek.

Chloe, who is pursuing a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was vacationing with her best friend in Spain when she received the news. "I turned on my data, because I knew the announcement was coming," she explains. "I actually thought it was going to go to somebody else, and we both got really excited."

As a student, Chloe's journey at UBC has been one of self-discovery. Although she originally planned to become an elementary teacher, she discovered a love and aptitude for organic chemistry.

After completing a major in molecular biology and biochemistry, with a minor in biological sciences, Chloe is now focused on the research of tissue culture and cell culture, as well as protein purification. She plans to pursue a postdoctoral degree and adds that she is hopeful that winning the scholarship will bring exciting new opportunities to advance her education and career.

The S.H. Zbarsky Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding PhD student in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for achievements in coursework, research, and in the student seminar series.

"I think dad was enamoured with the idea of the award going to someone who was distinguished by their peers," says Ralph. "And I think he also meant that the scholarship should be used to do interesting things, not just reinvested in education. To me, that's a great gift."

"We all hope that one of these students will find a cure for some form of cancer or Parkinson's" adds Deborah. "But it's also important for them to enjoy their time at UBC." Like their parents, Ralph and Deborah have taken considerable pride in meeting the scholarship recipients and note that all share some remarkable traits.

"Every award winner I've ever met has had similar personalities," says Ralph. "They are well-rounded, interesting people who are into the world. And they have huge bright futures ahead of them."



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A Quick Guide to Award Types

SCHOLARSHIPS

These monetary awards recognize academic achievement and help students with the cost of continuing their education. Scholarships are merit-based, and recipients must be in the top 10% of their class or have an average of 75% or higher.

BURSARIES

Bursaries are awards for students with demonstrated financial need.

FELLOWSHIPS

These prestigious awards enable graduate students to concentrate full-time on their studies and research. They are granted on the basis of academic excellence and/or research productivity.

PRIZES

Students can receive prizes for academic excellence or achievement in a particular subject area.

AWARDS

Awards recognize either (or both) academic excellence or achievement in a range of non-academic fields such as, community service, student leadership, volunteerism, and athletic or artistic performance. They are given to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Please contact us for more information about supporting student awards at UBC.

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In 2017 UBC launched the Blue & Gold Campaign for Students, with the goal of raising \$100 million in student support over three years. Contact us to find out more about how you can help.

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